

# Iowa Youth Symposium

October 29 - 30, 2025  
State Capitol, Des Moines

During this two-day symposium, high school students from around the state of Iowa convene to discuss and debate the United States' position within the United Nations on five different issues.

In the month leading up to the conference, students attend a regional event. You can find your regional location [here](#). Students chosen as outstanding delegates at their regional event go on to represent their region at the pre-plenary session on the first day of the conference. On this day, the outstanding regional delegates meet with expert speakers on their topic and draft committee position papers. Then, on the second day of the symposium, all delegates arrive at the State Capitol to discuss and draft resolutions.

| Timeline                 | Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 11                | <b>Background Guides</b><br>Background Guides are available on the IYS website for each topic.                                                                                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">2025 Background Guides</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| September 8 - October 10 | <b>Regional Meetings</b><br>Regional Meetings are held where delegates from local schools collaborate to compose a single regional position paper on each of the five topics. Outstanding delegates from each region are selected to attend the pre-plenary session of the symposium.         | <a href="#">2025 Regional Meetings</a><br><br><a href="#">Regional Position Paper Guidelines</a><br><br><i>If you do not see a regional event near you, please email IUNAFAC Chair, Rachel Hansen.</i><br><br><a href="mailto:rachel.hansen@iowa.gov">rachel.hansen@iowa.gov</a> |
| October 1 - 15           | <b>Registration</b><br>Registration opens on October 1st.<br>No refunds after registration closes.                                                                                                                                                                                            | <a href="#">Registration Form</a><br><br><i>The form will not be live until October 1st.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| October 22               | <b>Payment Postmarked</b><br>Invoices will be emailed to advisors on October 16th after registration closes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- \$10 per delegate</li><li>- \$11 per catered lunch</li></ul>                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| October 29               | <b>Day 1: Pre-Plenary Session</b><br>The Pre-Plenary Session of the Iowa Youth Symposium is held at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. Only outstanding regional delegates attend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Roundtable discussion</li><li>- Draft position papers</li></ul> | <a href="#">Sample Position Papers</a><br><br><i>This is a sample of the final Science Committee position paper from Day 1 of the 2024 IYS.</i>                                                                                                                                  |
| October 30               | <b>Day 2: Plenary Session</b><br>The Plenary Session of the Iowa Youth Symposium begins. All delegates attend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Keynote Speaker</li><li>- Draft resolutions</li></ul>                                                                                  | <a href="#">Sample Resolution</a><br><br><i>This is a sample of the final Science Committee resolution from Day 2 of the 2024 IYS.</i>                                                                                                                                           |

# How To Prepare

## A Guide for Advisors

### Topics

At the Iowa Youth Symposium, students are discussing the following prompt:

*What should be the position of the United States in the United Nations on \_\_\_\_\_?*  
(topic)

| Committee     | Topic                                                                               | % of total delegation assigned to this topic |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Technological | Addressing challenges posed by the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems | 44%                                          |
| Political     | Unrecognized states                                                                 | 20%                                          |
| Social        | Compelling member states to include women on international delegations              | 13%                                          |
| Science       | Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the shipping industry                          | 13%                                          |
| Economic      | Tariffs and free trade agreements on agricultural products                          | 10%                                          |

*When assigning students to these topics, please use the above percentages/ratios. This helps us ensure that we do not exceed room capacity at the State Capitol.*

### Background Guides

Advisors have prepared [background guides](#) to give students an overview of each topic. Students are expected to conduct further research on their own to develop their position papers and prepare for discussion.

### Preparation

To prepare your students for the Iowa Youth Symposium, ensure that your students understand how to:

1. Write a position paper
2. Write amendments for a resolution using preambulatory and actuating clauses
3. Discuss amendments using parliamentary procedure
4. Dress professionally in Western business attire

*\*The table below has helpful links and guides to help your students prepare in each of those four areas. The list continues on the next page.*

| Topics                                                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Writing Position Papers</b><br><br>Due by October 15 | Position papers from regional meetings should have the following sections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background Information</li> <li>2. United States Position</li> <li>3. Justification and Summary</li> <li>4. Citations</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">Position Paper Template</a><br><br><a href="#">Position Paper Sample</a><br><br><i>Email position papers to Kristin Weiland (<a href="mailto:kweiland@dbqschools.org">kweiland@dbqschools.org</a>)</i> |
| <b>Writing Amendments for Resolutions</b>               | Resolutions are composed of amendments in two sections: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Preambulatory</u>: provides an overview of the problem and past actions taken on the issue</li> <li>2. <u>Actuating</u>: contains the real content and proposed actions</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <a href="#">Sample Draft Amendments</a><br><br><a href="#">Amendment Form</a><br><br><a href="#">Initiating Clauses for Amendments</a><br><br><a href="#">Instructional Video</a> (1:47)                           |
| <b>Parliamentary Procedure</b>                          | Every Model UN conference follows the rules of parliamentary procedure for discussion and debate. Committee sessions generally follow this flow: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set <u>quorum</u> for voting (roll call)</li> <li>2. Motion for an <u>unmoderated caucus</u> to write amendments</li> <li>3. Motion for a <u>moderated caucus</u> to discuss</li> <li>4. Motion to <u>vote</u> on amendments after discussion</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">Outline of Parliamentary Procedure at IYS</a><br><br>Instructional Video ( <i>Coming Soon</i> )                                                                                                        |
| <b>Western Business Attire</b>                          | Students are expected to wear Western business attire for the duration of the symposium. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jacket, blazer, or suit</li> <li>- Dress slacks or skirt</li> <li>- Dress shirt or sweater</li> <li>- Hosiery or socks</li> <li>- Dress shoes</li> </ul> <p>Conservative accessories are okay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ties</li> <li>- Scarves</li> <li>- Earrings and necklaces</li> <li>- Watches</li> </ul> <p>The following dress is <u>too casual</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leggings</li> <li>- Short skirts</li> <li>- T-shirts</li> <li>- Jeans</li> <li>- Shorts</li> <li>- Hats</li> <li>- Athletic shoes or sandals</li> <li>- Commercial advertising</li> </ul> | <a href="#">Tips for Men</a><br><br><a href="#">Tips for Women</a>                                                                                                                                                 |